

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 03/03421

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 G01T1/20

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01T

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| X          | US 4 621 194 A (UCHIDA YOKO ET AL)<br>4 November 1986 (1986-11-04)<br>abstract<br>column 3, line 30 - column 4, line 52<br>figures   | 1                     |
| A          | US 6 393 092 B1 (YOSHIDA MINORU)<br>21 May 2002 (2002-05-21)<br>abstract<br>column 2, line 24 - line 31<br>column 3, line 26 - line 47<br>column 4, line 30 - line 66<br>column 5, line 59 - line 67<br>column 10, line 44 - line 60<br>column 11, line 5 - line 37; figures<br>-/-- | 1-5                   |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
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- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 November 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

28/11/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Datta, S

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A          | <p>US 5 430 298 A (WEI CHING-YEU ET AL)<br/> 4 July 1995 (1995-07-04)<br/> column 2, line 49 -column 3, line 14<br/> column 3, line 52 - line 60<br/> column 5, line 26 -column 6, line 33<br/> figures</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> | 1                     |

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| Patent document<br>cited in search report |    | Publication<br>date |    | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
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| US 4621194                                | A  | 04-11-1986          | JP | 1739293 C                  | 26-02-1993          |
|   |    |                     | JP | 4025513 B                  | 01-05-1992          |
|   |    |                     | JP | 59046877 A                 | 16-03-1984          |
| US 6393092                                | B1 | 21-05-2002          | JP | 2001027673 A               | 30-01-2001          |
| US 5430298                                | A  | 04-07-1995          | DE | 19521075 A1                | 04-01-1996          |
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